staff productivity, asset utilisation,inventory management, fuel consumption, austerity in areas such as travel, publicity, hospitality etc. are being implemented. In earnings, healthy growth is expected from the improved economic scenario and aggressive marketing with improved freight services and commercial incentives. Non-traditional sources of revenue such as utilisation of right of way for laying of Optic Fibre Cable, commercial utilisation of land and air space, advertising rights at stations and on rolling stock etc. are also expected to contribute to improvement in the Operating Ratio. Besides, all efforts are being made to curb leakage of revenue and pilferages.

Railway Projects in Maharashtra

4375. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Railway projects submitted by the Maharashtra Government during the last three years and the estimated cost thereof;

(b) the details of action taken by Union Government thereon;

(c) the details of progress made on ongoing projects in terms of targets set; and

(d) the details of action plan/new projects proposed during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Railway overbridges in Tamil Nadu

4376. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for construction of rail overbridges at various stations/railway crossings in Tamil Nadu Division of Southern Railway, pending as on December, 1999;

(b) the present status of these proposals;

(c) how long they are pending; and

(d) the total number of accidents which occurred at spots where these bridges are not constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There are 112 level crossings qualifying for replacement with Road Over/Under Bridges on cost sharing basis in Tamil Nadu.

(b) 58 works have already been sanctioned and 54 are yet to be sanctioned.

(c) The proposals are included in Railways Works Programme if sponsored by the State Govt. duly fulfilling certain pre-requisites and assigned priority subject to the proposals being otherwise found feasible.

(d) Only at one level crossing No. 36, Km. 62/2-3 on Karur-Tiruchchirappalli section.

Increase in Rail Passengers

4377. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the percentage of increase in rail passengers during the last three years;

(b) what was the percentage of addition to passenger train services during the corresponding period; and

(c) what are Government's plans to bridge the gap between the increase in passengers and addition to passenger train services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The percentage of increase in rail passengers (number of passengers originating) as well as the percentage of addition to passenger train services during the last three years are given below :—

	1995-96	1998-99	%age increase
No. of passengers originating (in millions)	4018	4411	9.8%
No. of passenger trains run daily	7,525	8,195	8.9%

(c) In order to bridge the gap, Railways extend the existing trains, increase the frequency of non-daily trains and augment the loads of the trains to the extent feasible and justified. These measures provide additional carrying capacity to meet the traffic demand.